

Amendments to the Claims

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) An irrigation system comprising:
each of an irrigation controller and a water application device physically situated at a location of a user, the controller at least partially controlling the water application device; and
a communication system that ~~exchanges monitoring information~~ sends at least one of a start time, irrigation water flow data, and irrigation water pressure data between from the irrigation controller [[and]] to a government agency wherein the communication system comprises a public packet switched network.
2. (Currently amended) The irrigation system of claim 1, wherein the ~~exchange of monitoring information with the government agency is bi-directional communication~~ system consists of bi-directional communications.
3. (Currently amended) The irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising a microprocessor disposed in the irrigation controller, that facilitates the ~~exchange of monitoring information between~~ sending of at least one of a start time, irrigation water flow data and irrigation water pressure data from the irrigation controller to [[and]] the government agency.
4. (Currently amended) The irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising a microprocessor disposed in a unit separate from the irrigation controller, that facilitates the ~~exchange of monitoring information between~~ sending of at least one of a start time, irrigation water flow data and irrigation water pressure data from the irrigation controller to [[and]] the government agency.
5. (Original) The irrigation system of claim 1, further comprising a storage device that stores data at the user location.
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The irrigation system of claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises a two-way pager.
8. (Previously presented) The irrigation system of claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises a web page interface.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently amended) A method of operating an irrigation system comprising:
 - physically situating each of an irrigation controller and a water application device at a location of a user;
 - utilizing the controller to at least partially control the water application device;
 - providing a first communication system comprising a public packet switched network;
 - coupling the irrigation controller and a government agency using the first communication system; and
 - exchanging monitoring information sending at least one of a start time, irrigation water flow data, and irrigation water pressure data between from the irrigation controller [[and]] to the government agency.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of the user entering landscape irrigation operating information into a personal computer, and the personal computer transmitting the landscape irrigation information to the irrigation controller via a second communication system.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
 - providing the controller with a microprocessor programmed to receive additional information from a distal computer via a second communication system; and
 - the microprocessor determining an irrigation schedule based at least in part on landscape irrigation operating information from the user, and the additional information from the distal computer.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
 - providing the controller with local water usage data; and

the microprocessor determining an irrigation schedule based at least in part on the water usage data.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of determining an irrigation schedule further includes the microprocessor computing a desired quantity of water to be applied to a landscape at the user's location for a specific period of time.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the period of time is at least one day.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the additional information from the distal computer includes weather data, and further comprising the microprocessor computing an ETo value.
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising the microprocessor comparing the ETo value to a desired quantity of water applied to the landscape.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising coupling the user and a distal computer using a third communication system.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising a microprocessor sending a warning to the user via a second communication system when an aspect of the irrigation system falls outside of a predetermined parameter.
22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising a microprocessor preventing an operation of the irrigation system when the irrigation system falls outside of a predetermined parameter.
23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of transmitting information to a distal computer such information comprising a calculated estimate of water actually applied at a station for a time period.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the information transmitted to the distal computer further includes a relationship between the calculated estimate of water actually applied at a station for a time period, and a computed ETo for the station for the time period.
25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising sending information from a distal computer to the government agency, such information including irrigation operating information.
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the irrigation operating information includes at least one of an irrigation start time, an irrigation run time, an irrigation water flow value, and an irrigation water pressure value.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)